

# SO CAL DX BUL

The Newsletter of the Southern California DX Club est 1947

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor.

(Some articles may be copyright.)

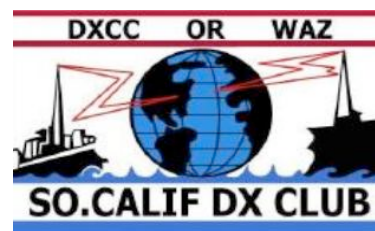
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur

Repeater: W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL

Please check the Club web site at <http://www.scdxc.org>

December 2008

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



This is dues re-  
newal month.

Please fill in the  
form and send  
with your check  
to Mel.

you can print the attachment



Making friends all  
over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio  
Sponsors of the International DX Convention at Visalia, since  
1949





## THE PREZ SEZ

Thanksgiving has come and barely gone when you receive this newsletter. I hope yours was a happy day filled with family, friends, and lots of turkey and trimmings.

Band conditions are slowly getting better. We still have a few scarce days when DX comes in Q-5. If you can stay glued to your station all day and evening, you should have a chance. Otherwise, it is the luck of the draw.

I mentioned at a recent meeting that Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, was surprised and thrilled to have received our club's Honorary Member plaque, which includes all privileges. In his club newsletter, he makes mention of this honor, and included a copy of the plaque and one of my letters to him. A copy of these from his newsletter is included in this bulletin.

If you haven't already sent your check to Doc. K6OGO, for our club year-end party at the Orange Hill Restaurant, it's not too late. Just call Doc and show up. You can pay on that day. If you need to be reminded of the date, it is 12:30 PM, Sunday, December 7. If nothing else inspires you to come, how about the grand prize of a PALSTAR AT-AUTO 1500 watt automatic antenna tuner. There will also be other great prizes too. This will be my last month as president of our great SCDXC, and I look forward to seeing many of my DXer friends and co-members.

Till I see you on December 7, I wish you great DXing.  
Sharon Spring, K6IRD

## FROM THE VEEP



Hi Folks...Well here we are with November coming to an end and December just a few days away.

This has been an exciting year with all the activities, presentations and parties. And speaking of "parties"? Have you signed up for the Holiday Party at Orange Hill on Saturday December 7th? If not...Please sit down and do so right now! Time is running out and you don't want to miss out on buying your raffle tickets for the Palstar Tuner! What a prize... one which anyone would love to win!

Don't forget to bring your lady along too. There is a special gift for her along with a chance for her to win a very nice raffle prize too.

The food is delicious, plenty of it and as always – you can't beat the company or the topic! Won't you join us for some holiday fun?

So if you haven't already done so... Please sit down and get your money mailed today! Let's celebrate a wonderful year...

For now...Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Then I hope to see all of you at Orange Hill for the last SCDXC celebration of the year!  
Tom Paquette – N6OT  
V.P. - SCDXC



## CONFESSIONS OF A PHONE MAN

By Dave Bell, W6AQ

I looked at the Morse code as a necessary evil. That had been my attitude since I discovered ham radio back there in the dark ages before transistors and Novice licenses. My Elmer (though I don't ever remember them being called that back then) was a major league phone man, Jack, W8LIO (Loudest In Ohio), and while he claimed he knew the code he certainly never used it, and he gave me his only key (a J-38) to practice with.

There were two of us teenagers who discovered Jack at about the same time and we decided we'd learn the "Morris code" as we called it, cram a little radio theory, learn a few circuit diagrams, and journey into Cleveland to get a Class "B" ham ticket.

From the beginning it was clear that Hal was better at the code than I was. For one thing he'd discovered Jack's 85' backyard tower before I did, so he had a head start. But in addition to that he had rhythm, a talent which has eluded me all my life, just ask my high school band leader. "N" remained dash-dot for me long after Hal had it down as dah-dit. His patience, attention span and ability to withstand intermittent pain left me in awe (and in the dust).

Jack was the only ham in our unique little northeastern Ohio town and I should point out that "unique" described our town perfectly. My Latin teacher in High School said that Uni meant one and Equus meant horse – and that was Andover, Ohio, for sure. Jack was absolutely no help with the code, except to draw a circuit diagram of a simple code practice oscillator (out of his head) which he gave to Hal, who passed it along to me. We both built one. It was more fun than practicing the code.

The few times I'd mention my difficulties with the code to Jack he'd smile and say, "Why David, that's no hill for a climber," dismissing my depression with a slap on the back and positive words of encouragement meant to assuage my skepticism and general ineptitude.

But nothing I tried worked. Every time I found W1AW on my S-20-R it immediately became buried in QRM, QRN and every other nasty Q imaginable. The ham fraternity seemed in cahoots with Mother Nature in plotting against me. Of course my S-20-R had a CW bandpass of about 20 KhZ so the loudest signal always won a wide swath of frequencies.

Even the code record I ordered came broken. I couldn't afford an "Instructograph." Audio cassettes weren't available, probably because audiotape hadn't been invented.

And in that winter of forty-seven when I was struggling to learn the code, there wasn't even a Novice license, which meant that I not only had to go from zero to thirteen words a minute in one fell swoop, but further, all hams on the air had gotten over that high hurdle, so to find anybody sending a reasonable speed (4 or 5 wpm) was futile.

Against overwhelming odds and all of the forces of nature, by Spring I'd gotten my speed up to 7 wpm when I hit a plateau. For me, Spring meant baseball, so CW was put on the back burner. For Hal though, baseball held no allure, so he persevered, and passed his code test on his first try.

When his ticket arrived, I studied it with jealous admiration. Hal was W8BGJ (now W8CY). I was a first baseman. I hated the Morse code.

Despite Hal's help and encouragement, and Jack's "...you can do it, David" attitude, it was nearly two years before I got my code speed up and finally passed the test. After the victorious moment that I crested Morse's hill and so laboriously drew diagrams of power supplies and neutralizing circuits while combing my memory for carefully stored electronic facts, it seemed like an eternity before my ticket arrived in the mail. It finally did. I was W8GUE.

A real ham at last! I was done with the code and good riddance!

Then, as if to rub my nose in those three anguished years of Dah-dit-dah-dit Dit-dah-dah memorization, almost immediately after I passed my exam, the FCC announced something they called the "Novice License". They had come to the conclusion that from zero to thirteen w.p.m. was cruel and inhuman punishment. Belated revelations from Washington yet!

Oh, how we old-timers railed against "lowering our standards." We had suffered, why shouldn't everybody? Our anguished cries fell on governmental (deaf) ears. There I was, double crossed by our government, and not even old enough to vote the rascals out of office.

My vindictiveness passed with time and I began to see the wisdom of the Novice license. And besides, I didn't do CW, so I never talked to any of those slow-code hams anyway.

After I passed my Class "A" license (Advanced), I bid those cold, evil, FCC offices goodbye forever. Or so I thought.

The Extra Class license came along and I blithely ignored the alleged opportunity to upgrade, especially since it required a twenty wpm code proficiency. No way. All of the incentives the FCC could dream up were as carrots dangled over the wrong end of a horse. Except one. Extra Class licensees could request and get two-letter calls. And not only distinctive calls, but calls of your choice (subject to availability, of course). I could swap my W6BVN for, who knows, maybe my initials or even better. I'd always wanted a two letter call with an "A" suffix. Always.

What the hell – I'd learned it once, I could learn it again. I discovered the West Coast equivalent of W1AW – W6QIE. Code practice every night started at 8 pm, at 5 wpm, just my speed. We'll maybe a little fast, but I recognized the letters! I bought cassettes. I listened to 20 minutes of code practice every single night for one long year. At the end of that time I could copy Morse's evil creation 25 wpm.

In August of 1976, slightly over 25 years since I passed my first licensing exam, I braved the FCC examiner in Long Beach. I sat down determined to copy the 20 wpm solid. I did. Almost. My heart rate was just this side of astronomical. The examiner asked me if I'd like to take a break before I took my sending test. He obviously didn't need a coronary right there on government property.

I was in upstate New York shooting a documentary when Sam called me with the news that my new license had arrived. I was W6AQ. The phonetics "African Queen" flashed across the marquee of my mind and I tried talking out of the corner of my mouth. I called my assistant "doll." He looked at me strangely. W6AQ. How 'bout that? It was the last "A" suffix call available and I was delighted with it. I still am.

Dit-dah Dah-dah-di-dah. Not bad. In retrospect, the year of spare time work I put into it really wasn't much of a hill for a climber. What's happened is that I've learned to like the code. I'm still not very good at it, but I enjoy it. Back there in '76, flush from my victory over Samuel F.B. Morse, I decided that CW was the one thing that set us apart from ordinary people. I'd begun to view it as the hams' secret language

When the big debate about ham licenses without Morse was raging a few years ago, I was on the side of eliminating CW as a licensing requirement. I'm not sure now that I was right about that. I've worked lots of DX running CW QRP – try that with SSB. In the IARU HF World Championship contest last July, I won 1<sup>st</sup> place US and Canada QRP Mixed Mode. Ninety percent of my contacts were on CW.

I've always considered DXers the crème de la crème in the ham radio world. I guess now I consider brass pounders the crème de la crème de la crème.

Dah-dah-di-di-dit Di-di-di-dah-dah, W6AQ

## EDITORIAL

**BY DAVE BELL, W6AQ**

In the November issue of the BUL, I lamented the fact that not a single member of the once great Southern California DX Club had stepped up to run for Vice President. I urged that someone volunteer, since VP is not a very hard job. No one has volunteered. Therefore, this editorial is cancelled due to lack of interest.

73, Dave Bell, W6AQ



## Letter from our President to Neville, G3NUG

September 17, 2008

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG  
Lower Withers Barns  
Middleton on the Hill  
Leominster  
Herefordshire HR6 0HY  
UK

Dear Neville,

It is my honor, as President of the Southern California DX Club, to present you with this Honorary Member Plaque. This honorary membership is only presented to those whom our membership regard as high achievers and contributors to worldwide Dxers. Your Five-Star Dxpeditons have provided many ham operators an opportunity to work countries never before worked.

Your honorary membership entitles you all the benefits of membership, which include the monthly newsletter and notifications.

Arnie Shatz, N6HC, presented you to the SCDXC Board for this honor and it was unanimously voted to include you in our hall of fame. Congratulations and welcome.

On a personal note, it was a real delight for Wayne and me to sit with you and your Dxpediton members at the Visalia Convention..We all had such good fun. We both hope to take you up on your invitation to visit you and your wife someday.

Neville, I look forward to seeing you again. More than likely it won't be until after your next Dxpdition, which I hope will be soon. Take care and keep that wonderful smile.

Respectfully,

Sharon Spring, K6IRD  
President, SCDXC

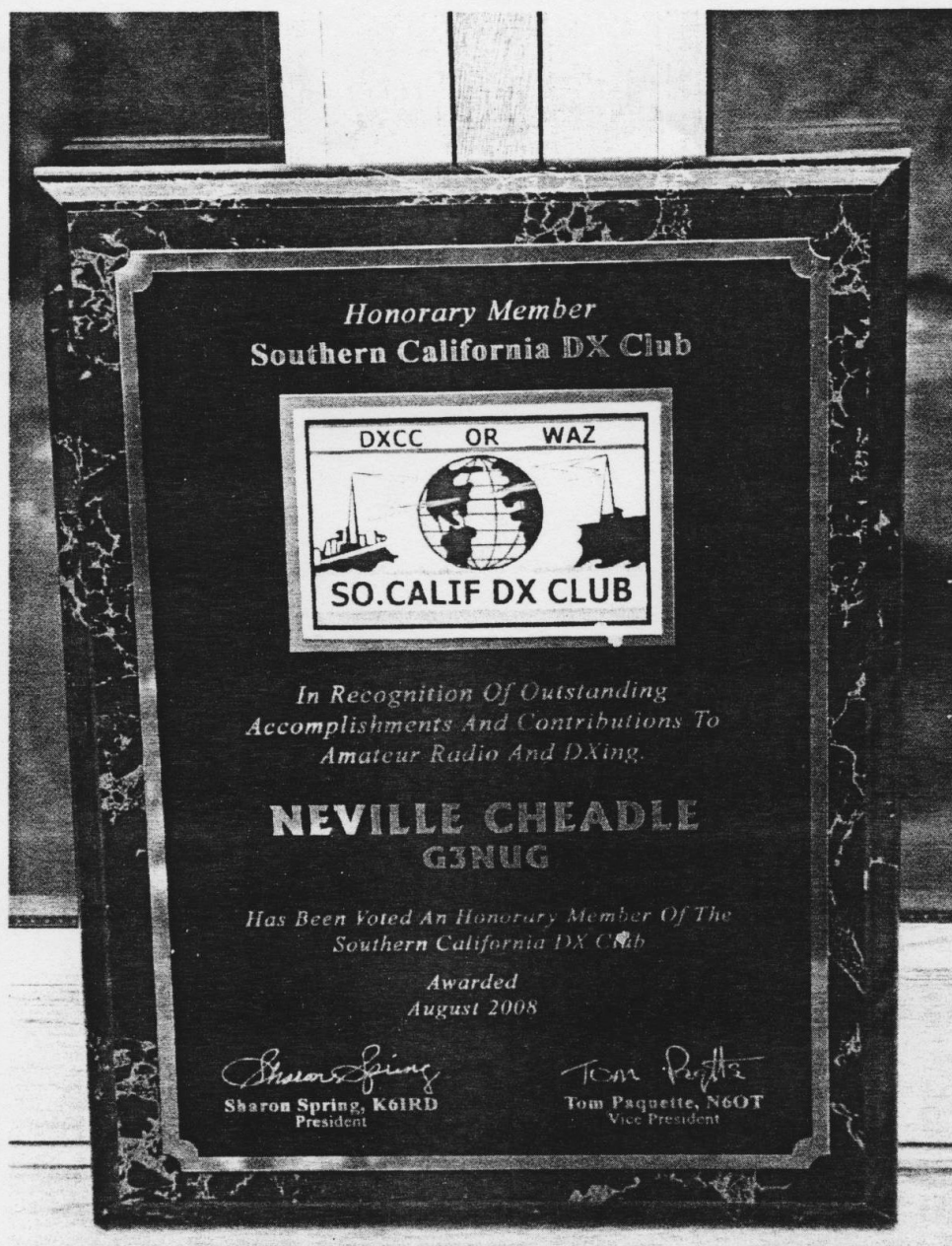
From  
Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

...to see this news is pretty good.

I was delighted to learn recently that I have been made an Honorary Member of the Southern California DX Club. SCDXC took the lead role in organising the Visalia Convention this year and did an outstanding job. A letter from Sharon Spring, K6IRD, the President of SCDXC, is published elsewhere in this *Digest*. It is a very thoughtful letter. I was delighted that Arnie, N6HC, proposed me to the SCDXC Board. Arnie is a CDXC member and a member of the 3B7C team. On my way to Visalia I stayed with Wes, W3WL - another CDXC member - in Roswell, GA. I gave a presentation to the Southeastern DX Club and was given Honorary Membership of the SEDXC. Again I was delighted to receive this and thank Wes for his support. Although these are personal awards, the real credit must go the members of the FSDXA teams who DXpedition with us. Virtually all are CDXC members.

## PLAQUE SENT BY SCDXC

Plaques recently received by Neville G3NUG



SCDXC plaque



# K5KT

## MEET MEMBER JOE LOCASCIO



I am currently using the FLEX 5000a which is replacing my ole trusty Yaesu FT-1000D.

I'm also currently using an Alpha 87A and will be adding an ACOM 2000A as an alternate Amp soon too.

The 160M antenna is an old W9INN Dipole (really 40/75/160) that is hung off the top of the HDX-589. The installation shown has been up and in use since 1990; so, it's about time for a change.

All for not. Joe's station is getting bigger and better. The FLEX 5000A backed up with a MAC PRO and Stepper DB-36 plus 75/80 mtr on order. Don't ya just wanna cry. Look for him LOUD AND CLEAR.

Licensed and active since 1955 (Little town in Louisiana)

K5KT since 1976

K5KT/6 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA since 1978

DXCC TOP of the Honor Roll

Work 160M - 70CM (NO 6M) CW/SSB also VHF/UHF FM

# ARRL CONTESTING Dec 2008

December	5 - 7 13 - 14	ARRL 160 Meter Contest ARRL 10 Meter Contest
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## 2009

January	1	Straight Key Night
	3 - 4	ARRL RTTY Round-Up
	3	Kids Day
	17 - 19	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
February	21 - 22	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
March	7 - 8	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
June	13 - 14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
	20	Kids Day
	27 - 28	ARRL Field Day
July	11 - 12	IARU HF World Championships
August	1 - 2	ARRL UHF Contest
	15 - 16	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
September	12 - 13	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
	19 - 20	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest
November	7 - 8	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
	21 - 22	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
December	4 - 6	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
	12 - 13	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

# ANNUAL CQ CONTEST CALENDAR 2009

CQ DX Marathon	Jan - Dec	Full Year
CQWW 160 Meter / CW	Jan	Last full weekend
CQWW RTTY WPX	Feb	2nd full weekend
CQWW 160 Meter / SSB	Feb	Last full weekend
CQWW WPX / SSB	Mar	Last full weekend
CQ National Foxhunting Weekend	May	2nd or 3rd full weekend
CQWW WPX / CW	May	Last full weekend
CQWW VHF	July	3rd full weekend
CQWW RTTY DX	Sept	4th full weekend
CQWW DX / SSB	Oct	Last full weekend
CQWW DX / CW	Nov	Last full weekend

## NEW CALL SIGN

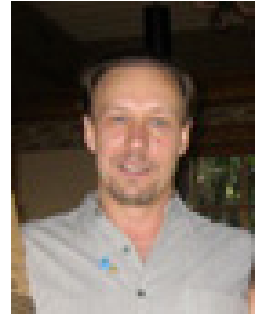
Tuck Miller has changed his call sign:

New Call sign W3TM

E Mail address: [w3tm@arrl.net](mailto:w3tm@arrl.net)

# FROM RADIO DAN

SCDXC and ex-patriots, submitted by Dan W7RF in Fort Collins, CO.



How many Hams have lived in SoCal for part of their lives, became SCDXC members and then moved away after making many friends here? How many DXer's do we meet and enjoy seeing at the DX convention yet we're sorry to see them go back home when the event is over? How many DXer's have we hosted in our homes and talk to on the air far too infrequently?

There is a way to have Hams say hi to the SCDXC membership from all over the world, ECHOLINK! I stay in touch with many of you on the low bands but how nice it would be to say hi on the SCDXC repeater as the guys are traveling to a meeting that we can no longer attend due to the great distance between us?

I was just listening to a local repeater here in Fort Collins and a 4S7 was talking to a guy locally here. I thought, how nice it would be to stay in touch with people we have met in person or talked to on HF over the years. Sure we can always hope that our friend is active on the air and we have good propagation and be at the radio at that time. Look, if 9K2GS is a good friend, Abdallah is very easy to work on HF because he is very active and always has a great signal. But what about others? Maybe their HF stations are more limited or they are off the air due to various reasons.

I propose that someone (with signal path to the 2M repeater) volunteers to host a 2M radio connected through a simple interface to their computer serial port (or USB to serial adapter) and sound card. This computer must have a broadband internet connection. Just about any old computer will do, in fact an old Pentium 4 running XP is perfect. Applying for an Echolink node number is easy. If you're using a router, certain ports must be "port forwarded" and that is easy to do as well. This system can stay "connected" all the time and when someone wants to say hi, he just calls up the node number from wherever he is in the world and joins us on 2M! If the repeater is already in use, the other station would hear that and know when to jump in, just like they were there in LA.

Anyone interested in hosting this simple system at their house, contact me for technical details at [dan@radiodan.com](mailto:dan@radiodan.com) or 310 995-3939 or connect to my Echolink node 412361

If needed I would be happy to provide the radio and interface making the system a plug-and-play, just requiring a computer, power supply and antenna.

-----

Regards, Dan Magro W7RF

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[www.radiodan.com](http://www.radiodan.com) <<http://www.radiodan.com/>>

[RFpower@radiodan.com](mailto:RFpower@radiodan.com)

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I understand that some of our members use ECHOLINK regularly for personal contacts. If your interested give Dan a call. I know he would be happy to hear from you.

Steve, W6NRQ if you want to learn more goto:

<http://www.echolink.org/> or <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echolink>

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**Should be a busy month.**

Renew your dues for 2009. [See the attachment.](#)

Volunteer for VP. The club needs you.

Write something for the So Cal Bul newsletter.

Come to the Holiday Party

**JUST DO SOMETHING**





Gary, WB6PSY says. Eat lots of food and get nice and fat! Yeehaw ...!!  
Have a SAFE holiday, folks.      HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Andy WA6WXD on the go again. From Connecticut **From Catman**  
**Andy: Marilyn and I are currently in Bridge-**  
**port, CT. for the THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**  
**.... ENJOY "TURKEY DAY" ...y'hear !!**

We'll be here for the week ..... soaking up the chillier weather ...burrrrr!

ANDREW ROMANISKY <[radioandy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:radioandy@sbcglobal.net)>

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- \* Shipping weight: 25 lbs

**MAIN PRIZE OF THE HOLIDAY PARTY  
SIGN UP NOW**

Know your Leaders  
Election of officers is in January  
Be there.



Sharon, K6IRD  
President



Dave, W6AQ  
Director and Editor  
of the SCDXC Bul



Tom, N6OT  
Vice President



Steve, W6NRQ  
Secretary and Publisher of  
the SCDXC Bul

E mail to  
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Doc, K6OGO  
Treasurer



Don, NK6A  
Director



Jeff, K6JW  
Past president



Mel, K6SY  
Membership



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San Diego, C A	<a href="mailto:sd@hamradio.com">sd@hamradio.com</a>	1-858-560-4900	1-800-854-6046	1-858-560-1705

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